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cont'd

an interface circuit;  
a control circuit that controls the optical modulation [element] device; and  
an outer casing that accommodates the light source, the optical modulation [element] device, the transparent plate, the power supply unit, the interface circuit, and the control circuit.

19. (Amended) A projector comprising:

a light source;  
an optical modulation [element] device that modulates a light flux emitted from the light source according to image information;  
a projection unit that magnifies and projects the light flux modulated by said optical modulation [element] device;  
a partition that surrounds said optical modulation [element] device via an air layer and thereby separates said optical modulation [element] device from said light source and said projection unit;  
a power supply unit;  
an interface circuit;  
a control circuit that controls the optical modulation [element] device; and  
an outer casing that accommodates the light source, the optical modulation [element] device, the partition, the power supply unit, the interface circuit, and the control circuit.

#### REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1-4, 11, 14, 18 and 19 are amended. Claims 1-4, 11, 14, 18 and 19 are amended only for further clarity. No new matter is added.

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a power supply unit;  
an interface circuit;  
a control circuit that controls the optical modulation element; and  
an outer casing that accommodates the light source, the optical modulation element, the transparent plate, the power supply unit, the interface circuit, and the control circuit.--

--19. A projector comprising:  
a light source;  
an optical modulation element that modulates a light flux emitted from the light source according to image information;  
a projection unit that magnifies and projects the light flux modulated by said optical modulation element;  
a partition that surrounds said optical modulation element via an air layer and thereby separates said optical modulation element from said light source and said projection unit;  
a power supply unit;  
an interface circuit;  
a control circuit that controls the optical modulation element; and  
an outer casing that accommodates the light source, the optical modulation element, the partition, the power supply unit, the interface circuit, and the control circuit.--

REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 4-17 are amended and claims 18-19 are added. Claim 7 is amended to correct minor informalities pointed out by the Office Action, and claims 4-17 are amended for clarity. No new matter is added.

The Office Action rejects claims 7-9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. This rejection is moot in view of the amendment to claim 7. Accordingly, Applicant's request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7, and claims 8-9 depending therefrom under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Further, claim 8, lines 2-3, recite a pair of substrates that sandwich the polarizing layer and are made of a substrate material. Thus, this substrate material is clearly defined in claim 8. Accordingly, Applicant's request withdrawal of the rejection of claim 8 under 35 U.S.C. § 112.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Yamada (U.S. Patent No. 5,508,834). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that Yamada does not disclose or suggest an optical modulation element, and a transparent plate formed on at least one surface of the optical modulation element. In fact, in Yamada, there is no optical modulation element.

In Yamada, a TFT substrate 2 and a CF substrate 3 are bonded together, and a liquid crystal layer 5 is held in the gap therebetween. See col. 3, lines 60-64 of Yamada, for example. Contrary to Office Action's assertions, the liquid crystal 5 is not an optical modulation element, and does not even comprise a surface wherein a transparent plate is formed thereon.

Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Yamada. Because claims 2, 4 and 6-9 depend from claim 1, claims 2, 4 and 6-9 also are not anticipated by Yamada.

The Office Action rejects claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Williams. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants submit that Williams does not disclose or suggest a projection unit that magnifies and projects the light flux modulated by the optical modulation element, and a

partition that surrounds the optical modularization element via an air layer and thereby separates the optical modulation element from the light source and the projection unit. In fact, in Williams, there is no partition that separates any optical modulation element from a light source in the projection unit.

As seen in Williams, the projector is the entire apparatus, and is not and cannot be separated from any other components within the projector. Accordingly, claim 14 is not anticipated by Williams. Because claims 15 and 16 depend from claim 14, claims 15 and 16 also are not anticipated by Williams.

The Office Action rejects claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamada and Hashizume (U.S. Patent No. 5,865,521). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Yamada does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 4. As discussed, Yamada does not even disclose an optical modulation element having a surface.

Moreover, Hashizume does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 4 missing from Yamada. In fact, Hashizume also does not disclose or suggest a transparent plate formed on a surface of an optical modulation element. Thus, even combined, Yamada and Hashizume do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 4. Because claim 5 depends from claim 4, claim 5 would not have been obvious over Yamada and Hashizume.

The Office Action rejects claims 3 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamada and Yamazaki (U.S. Patent No. 5,212,573). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Yamada does not disclose or suggest the features of claims 1 and 4. Further, Yamazaki does not disclose or suggest these features of claims 1 and 4 missing from Yamada. In fact, Yamazaki does not disclose or suggest any transparent plates. Accordingly, even if combined, Yamada and Yamazaki do not disclose or suggest the

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features of claims 1 and 4. Because claim 3 depends from claim 1 and claim 10 depends from claim 4, claims 3 and 16 would not have been obvious over Yamada and Yamazaki.

The Office Action rejects claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yamada and Fujimori (U.S. Patent No. 5,868,485). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above, Yamada does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 4. Further, Fujimori does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 4 missing from Yamada. In fact, Fujimori does not disclose or suggest any transparent plate formed on a surface of an optical modulation element. Thus, even if combined, Yamada and Fujimori do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 4. Because claims 11-13 depend from claim 4, claims 11-13 would not have been obvious over Yamada and Fujimori.

As discussed above, Williams does not disclose or suggest the features of claim 14. Moreover, Yamazaki does not disclose or suggest the feature of claim 14 missing from Williams. In fact, Yamazaki does not disclose or suggest any partition. Thus, even if combined, Williams and Yamazaki do not disclose or suggest the features of claim 14. Because claim 17 depends from claim 14, claim 17 would not have obvious over Williams and Yamazaki.

For at least the above reasons, Applicants submit that claims 1, 2, 4 and 6-9 are not anticipated by Yamada, claims 14-16 are not anticipated by Williams, claim 5 would not have been obvious over Yamada, claims 3 and 10 would not have been obvious over Yamada and Yamazaki, claims 11-13 would not have been obvious over Yamada and Fujimori, and claim 17 would not have been obvious over Williams and Yamazaki.

Furthermore, Applicants submit that the applied references, alone or in combination, do not disclose or suggest an outer casing that accommodates a light source, an optical modulation element, a transparent plate, a power supply unit, an interface circuit, and a


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control circuit, as recited in new claim 18, or an outer casing that accommodates a light source, an optical modulation element, a partition, a power supply unit, an interface circuit, and a control circuit, as recited in new claim 19. Accordingly, claims 18 and 19 also contain allowable subject matter.

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Prompt consideration and due allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place this Application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



James A. Oliff  
Registration No. 27,075

Thu Anh Dang  
Registration No. 41,544

JAO:TAD/jth

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC  
P.O. Box 19928  
Alexandria, Virginia 22320  
Telephone: (703) 836-6400